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From: Mcseveney, Megan
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Subject: RA Request Update

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ON-GOING OIL RESPONSES IN REGION 5- March 28, 2014

Additional Background information

BP Whiting Refinery Crude Oil Release, Whiting, Indiana

On the evening of March 24, 2014 EPA responded to a release of crude oil from the BP Whiting Refinery to Lake Michigan. Crude Oil originating at the 12 pipe area cooling system flowed to the waste water treatment plant and into the #6 oil water separator. The crude was discovered by an electronic sensor in the #6 oil water separator at approximately 4.30 PM on March 24, 2014. The # 6 oil water separator unit became oversaturated with oil, and began discharging directly to Lake Michigan via the permitted NPDES outfall on BP property. When EPA arrived on scene at approximately 9pm, March 24, there was no visible discharge of oil into the lake.

EPA will continue 24 hour oversight of BP oil response activities to remediate oil, remove tar balls on the beach and oiled rocks, as well as remove oil from the oil water separator. The volume of crude oil released is still unknown. There is currently no oil discharging from the outfall into Lake Michigan.

Approximately 12 vacuum trucks are cleaning oil from the unit 6 separator and crews are cleaning oil globs from the beach. The beach area is on BP property and is about 2700 linear feet long. BP has established an air monitoring system and deployed a skimmer barge to remove boomed oil. The facility established a command post that includes EPA, USCG, and IDEM. An EPA PIO and an additional OSC with two START contractors have deployed to the scene.

Shoreline SCAT assessment occurred Wednesday, March 26, 2014 was suspended due to weather on March 27, 2014, resumed on March 28, 2014 and weather permitting may continue through the weekend of March 29.

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